

10/088864

JC10 Rec'd PCT/PTO 22 MAR 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Serial No.: not yet assigned

Confirmation No.: not yet assigned

Filed: Concurrently

Title: METHOD FOR DETERMINING OR
CHECKING MATERIAL
CHARACTERISTIC DATA OF A
COMPONENT

Group Art Unit: not yet assigned

Examiner: not yet assigned

Atty. Dkt. No.: 01013.0087.00US00

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before undertaking the examination of the above noted application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

AMENDMENTS:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following title beginning at page 1, line 3:

--Background of the Invention--

Please replace the title beginning at page 1, line 4 with the following rewritten title:

--1. Field of the Invention--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The present invention relates generally to methods for testing components and more particularly to a method for determining material characteristic data of a component.--

Please insert the following title beginning at page 1, line 11:

--2. Description of the Related Art--

Please delete the title "Patent claims" at page 9, line 1, and replace it with the paragraph:

--What is claimed is:--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-4.

Please add new claims 5-17 as follows:

5. A method for determining at least one property of a component designed for use in a completed assembly, the method comprising:
 - a) providing the component;
 - b) identifying at least one region of the component which will not be subject to significant static stress when installed in the completed assembly;
 - c) removing at least one test piece from at least one of the identified regions of the component; and
 - d) testing the removed test piece to determine at least one property of the test piece.
6. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the component comprises a fiber reinforced material.
7. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein step d) comprises testing material characteristic data of the test piece.
8. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein after step d) the component is installed in the completed assembly without the removed test piece.
9. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein after step d) the component is installed in the completed assembly without the removed test piece.
10. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein step d) comprises testing the test piece in a manner that destroys it.

11. The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein step d) comprises testing the test piece in a manner that destroys it.
12. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein a hollow portion created in the component by the removal of the test piece is filled by a filler material.
13. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein removal of the test piece comprises cutting through a wall section of the component to produce a hole.
14. The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the component comprises a fiber reinforced material.
15. The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein step d) comprises testing material characteristic data of the test piece.
16. The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the hole is substantially circular.
17. The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein step d) comprises testing the test piece a test device, the dimensions of the test piece being selected to be suitable for the test device.